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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

ATSUSHI ITO ET AL

: ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: 10/070,441

FILED: March 19, 2002

FOR: CERAMIC HEATER FOR A

SEMICONDUCTOR PRODUCING/

EXAMINING DEVICE

#3/amotea

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 3 to read as follows:1

3. (Amended) The ceramic heater for a semiconductor producing/examining device according to claim 1,

wherein a resistance value scattering in said resistance heating element to the average resistance value of said resistance heating element is 5% or less.

¹A marked-up copy of the amendment is attached hereto.